vities, equipment failures, human failures, law and order situation and bad weather etc.

(b) All efforts including intensive chasing and daily monitoring at different levels are being undertaken regularly. In addition, punctuality drives are also being launched.

New Telephone Connection for Andhra Pradesh

221. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to provide 2.15 lakh new telephones in the State of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the areas likely to be covered;

(c) the total amount to be involved therein; and

(d) the actual demand of telephones in the State and to what extent the State Government's demand is likely to be met by providing 2.15 lakh telephones during the current year ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Department has set a target of providing 2.15 lakhs new Telephone connections in the State of Andhra Pradesh during 1997-98.

(b) It is planned to provide new telephone connections in all the 23 districts of Andhra Pradesh.

(c) The amount involved in providing 2.15 lakhs new telephone connections is about Rs. 522.6 crores.

(d) The waiting list for telephone connections as on 31.3.97 is 242592. By providing 2.15 lakh new telephone connections during 1997-98, 88% of the waiting list as on 31.3.97. However, this is subject to availability of equipment and other resouces.

DD Centres in Karnataka

222. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Doordarshan Centres in Karnataka, alongwith the capacity thereof as on June 30, 1997 location-wise;

(b) the details of programmes prepared by these centres during 1996-97 and upto June 30, 1997;

(c) whether the programmes prepared by the local talents are telecast by these centres;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to telecast such programmes ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) There are two Kendras in Karnataka – one at Bangalore and another at Gulbarga with capacity of 10 KW and 1KW respectively.

(b) The details are as under :

Doordarshan Kendra : Bangalore	1575
Doordarshan Kendra : Gulbarga	91

(c) The programmes prepared by these kendras by inclusion/participation of local talent are telecast depending upon the programme requirement and availability of suitable time slot.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Transportation facilities at Moula Ali Railway Station

223. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision to stop transhipment from Moula Ali Railway Station since July 1, 1997;

(b) if so, whether this would adversely affect the farmers in the district due to shortages of fertilisers and transport bottlenecks of the movement of rice and other agricultural products;

(c) whether the Government received any representation regarding continuation of transhipment facility at Moula Ali Railway Station for traffic destined to and originating from Nizamabad till the gauge conversion in this section is completed;